

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 March 1954

3.3(h)(2)
3.5(c)

Copy No. 84

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 4
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2009
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 27/12/19 REVIEWER:

Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~**SUMMARY****GENERAL**

1. Balkan Pact powers to begin military talks on 24 March (page 3).

SOVIET UNION

2. Petroleum sales essential to Soviet import program (page 3).
3. Bohlen sees Sino-Soviet differences over Geneva arrangements (page 4).
4. First IL-28's fly to Chukotsk in the Soviet Far East (page 4).

SOUTHEAST ASIA

5. [redacted] Bao Dai's contacts with Viet Minh (page 6).
6. French commander describes assault on Dien Bien Phu (page 7).
7. Burma refuses to change present cease-fire plan (page 7).

SOUTH ASIA

8. Pakistan to take Kashmir dispute to Security Council soon (page 8).

EASTERN EUROPE

9. Czechs may be producing improved MIG fighter (page 9).

WESTERN EUROPE

10. [redacted]
11. Communist sympathizer reported in line for top Italian military post (page 10).

LATIN AMERICA

12. Guatemala may lead anticolonial attack at Caracas (page 10).

* * * *

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54

~~TOP SECRET~~**GENERAL****1. Balkan Pact powers to begin military talks on 24 March:**

Comment: This, the fourth tripartite military conference, originally scheduled for February, was postponed at Turkey's request after high-level Turkish military representatives had become suspicious of Yugoslav motives and sincerity. The Turkish distrust was aroused by a report alleging that a secret Yugoslav mission had gone to Moscow, and by Yugoslav unwillingness to make certain intelligence on the Soviet army available to Turkey.

The scheduling of the forthcoming meeting indicates that tripartite military cooperation is continuing and that Turkish suspicions may be somewhat allayed.

While all three Balkan Pact powers apparently desire to give each other firm defense commitments, Greece and Turkey continue to be restrained by their NATO obligations.

SOVIET UNION**2. Petroleum sales essential to Soviet import program:**

the USSR "could and must sell substantial quantities of petroleum." They stated that petroleum is the only product available for export in sufficient quantities to pay for purchases the USSR must make in the West.

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

Comment: Soviet bloc petroleum exports to the West, although insignificant in world trade channels, increased from 2,000,000 metric tons in 1952 to 3,000,000 in 1953. Commitments under current trade agreements call for an even greater expansion of exports this year.

The growth of Orbit exports of petroleum and such other commodities as manganese and chrome ores, silver and platinum, can hardly compensate this year for the drastic decline in traditional Orbit exports of grain and timber. Thus the USSR may have to sell large quantities of gold or attempt to get long-term commercial loans from the West.

3. Bohlen sees Sino-Soviet differences over Geneva arrangements:



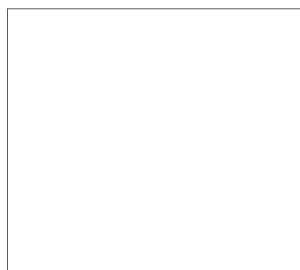
Ambassador Bohlen believes that the USSR's delay in agreeing to prepare for the Geneva conference may be attributed to difficulties with Communist China. He believes that the


Chinese response to the Berlin agreement on Geneva was not overly enthusiastic. He suggests that the Kremlin may have had to justify to Peiping Molotov's failure to obtain acceptance of great-power status for China. It is possible, Bohlen reasons, that the Chinese, having swallowed the original Berlin decision, now object to having their inferior status emphasized by the proposal that the four powers as a group should be responsible for preliminary Geneva arrangements.

Comment: The Soviet Union was also notably slow in making arrangements for the Berlin conference.

Peiping propaganda clearly shows gratification over Communist China's scheduled appearance at Geneva, which it consistently presents as a major step toward gaining general international acceptance. It is unlikely that the Chinese anticipated any role in making official preparations for the conference.

4. First IL-28's fly to Chukotsk in the Soviet Far East:



 the first flight of jet light bombers into the Chukotsk region on 13 March (see map, p. 5). Two IL-28's flew to Anadyr from Petropavlovsk on Kamchatka.

- 4 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54



TOP SECRET

40315

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

Comment: From Anadyr, Soviet IL-28's could penetrate Alaska to a depth of 300 nautical miles from the shores of the Bering Strait.

The first evidence of jet operations in the Chukotsk was noted in November 1952 with the arrival of a MIG-15 regiment at Provideniya. Operating from Provideniya, IL-28's could cover most of Alaska. Indications of airfield construction activity were noted at Anadyr, Velkal and Zaliv Kresta during 1953.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

5.

[REDACTED] Bao Dai's contacts with Viet Minh:

[REDACTED]

- 6 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

Comment: Bao Dai has in the past admitted having contacts with the Viet Minh as a means of promoting defections. It is not believed that he is currently carrying on or contemplating any peace negotiations, or that he is in contact with the Viet Minh leadership.

6. French commander describes assault on Dien Bien Phu:

General Navarre told the governor of Tonkin that the Viet Minh attack on Dien Bien Phu which began on 14 March was of "unprecedented fury." He said that one Viet Minh division lost 40 percent of its effectives.

Navarre said he "hoped" the French forces at Dien Bien Phu would be able to hold. He added that if they were able to resist such onslaughts as the first, "the Viet Minh battle force will have been broken."

Comment: The American army attaché on 14 March reported that the Viet Minh's initial series of attacks had succeeded in overrunning one of the more lightly defended French positions, wiping out the defending force of one Foreign Legion battalion. Two other strong points had repulsed the attacks and had inflicted heavy enemy casualties.

Since then, the French have flown in one paratroop battalion, which roughly replaces their losses. Though heavily outnumbered, the French retain the advantage of greater firepower.

7. Burma refuses to change present cease-fire plan:

Acting Foreign Minister Kyaw Nyein told Ambassador Sebald in Rangoon on 14 March that his government "found it impossible" to accede to the American request for a revision of the present cease-fire plan for the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist forces. Sebald believes Rangoon's decision on the matter is final.

- 7 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54

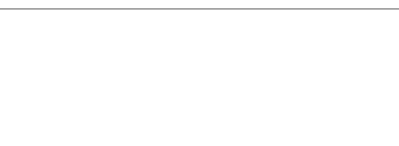
~~TOP SECRET~~

Comment: As of 15 March the cease-fire area was to be restricted to a small assembly area near the Thai border. To date, 4,700 Chinese have been withdrawn, and plans had been under discussion to bring out an additional 2,500 troops. Burma's attitude appears virtually to end all hopes that this latter group will come out.

Rangoon's decision appears to reflect its confidence that the Burmese armed forces can bring under control the estimated 7,000 Chinese troops remaining in Burma. Burmese forces could achieve this objective, however, only at the cost of lessened military pressure on domestic Communists and other insurgent forces.

SOUTH ASIA

8. Pakistan to take Kashmir dispute to Security Council soon:



Foreign Minister Zafrullah Khan has told American diplomats in Karachi that Pakistan will soon make a new approach on the Kashmir question to the UN Security Council. He said that he has received an official letter from Prime Minister Nehru saying there is no reason for another meeting with the Pakistani prime minister.

Zafrullah added that Nehru's attitude leaves Pakistan with no recourse except the United Nations, and that there was no object now in Pakistan's delaying its action until after 30 April, the deadline for agreement on a Kashmir plebiscite administrator.

Comment: Pakistan has regarded recourse to the Security Council as inevitable since the UN Kashmir Committee talks broke down last December. Zafrullah may still hope that a threat to take the dispute to the UN will influence Nehru to agree to further talks, but the Indian position is not likely to change.

Nehru has said that American military aid to Pakistan changes the complexion of the Kashmir problem. India probably will attempt to inject this subject into a Security Council discussion on Kashmir.

- 8 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54

~~TOP SECRET~~**EASTERN EUROPE****9. Czechs may be producing improved MIG fighter:**

[REDACTED] At least a portion of Czechoslovakia's MIG-15 production facilities was switched to an improved model in mid-1953. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Vodochody plant near Prague has been assembling this type since August 1953.

Comment: Czech production of an improved MIG model would substantially increase Satellite fighter capabilities.

Such a model would logically correspond to the MIG-15-bis, which went into production in the USSR in 1950 and has an engine which develops a thrust 1,000 pounds greater than that in the MIG-15.

The time of the reported model change follows closely the known shift of MIG final assembly from the Letnany to the new Vodochody plant. Czech MIG production, estimated at about 25 per month in the summer of 1953, had apparently doubled by January 1954.

WESTERN EUROPE**10.**

[REDACTED]

- 9 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

11. Communist sympathizer reported in line for top Italian military post:

The American army attaché in Rome reports a growing belief in Italian military circles that General Alessandro Trabucchi may soon replace General Marras as chief of staff for defense. Marras is past retirement age.

According to the attaché, Trabucchi has made statements indicating hostility to the United States and Britain, [redacted] and has appeared ignorant of modern concepts of military science. General Pieche, retired chief of the Carabinieri, recently referred to Trabucchi as "a man of Communist tendencies if indeed not an outright Communist."

Comment: Previous reports on Trabucchi have also indicated that he has pro-Communist sentiments. He will not reach retirement age for approximately three years.

LATIN AMERICA

12. Guatemala may lead anticolonial attack at Caracas:

- 10 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54

~~TOP SECRET~~

Comment: The item on colonialism in the Caracas agenda was cosponsored by Guatemala and Argentina. On 12 March the latter presented a resolution calling for the elimination of colonies in the hemisphere and for the repudiation of force in the continuance of colonial occupation.

The popular anticolonial issue may serve to align Guatemala--isolated in the vote on the anti-Communist resolution--with the majority of the Latin American countries. The United States has maintained that no specific cases should be discussed under the colonialism item.

- 11 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 Mar 54